

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 ERDA-07 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00

NSC-05 /101 W

----- 097621

R 191115Z DEC 75

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1375

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

UNCLAS MBFR VIENNA 0635

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: LAHODA DECEMBER 18 PRESS
CONFERENCE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

REF: MBFR VIENNA 0631

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: SPARSE FOLLOW-UP QS AND AS IN LAHODA'S
DECEMBER 18 PRESS CONFERENCE (SEPTTEL MBFR VIENNA 0631) WAS
DUE PRIMARILY TO LACK OF SUBSTANCE IN HIS STATEMENT.
WHEN HE HAD TO ADDRESS OPTION III ISSUE, HE MANIFESTED
UNWILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO ANY DISCUSSION. HOWEVER, IN
THE PROCESS HE HAD TO CONCEDE THAT THE PROPOSAL WILL HAVE
TO BE DISCUSSED, AND HE WAS QUITE FIRM IN STATING IN
CONNECTION WITH RUDE PRAVO QUESTION THAT, BY IMPLICATION,
EVEN THE CENTRAL CZECHOSLOVAK PARTY ORGAN HAS NO RIGHT TO
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REJECT A MATTER WHICH IS OF CONCERN TO THE VIENNA

NEGOTIATORS.

2. INITIAL AND SCATTERED WESTERN MEDIA REACTIONS TO LAHODA SINGLE OUT HIS CONTENTION THAT WESTERN PROPOSAL WAS "UNREALISTIC", BUT ALSO MENTION HIS REFERENCES TO NEED FOR EXAMINATION OF PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. Q (CBS) IS IT RIGHT TO SAY THAT YOU HAVE REJECTED THE PROPOSAL, AND THAT YOU ARE THINKING IT OVER?

A. THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION IS FULLY CONTAINED IN THE LAST PART OF MY STATEMENT, WHERE I EXPRESSED MYSELF IN A CLEAR WAY, AND I HOPE HERE THAT THERE IS NO NEED TO ELABORATE, BECAUSE EVERYTHING ELSE DEPENDS ON THE TALKS IN VIENNA, OF WHICH I HAVE JUST NOW INFORMED YOU.

2. Q. (CBS) WOULD YOU SAY WHETHER YOU BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE ANY MERITS TO THE PROPOSAL?

A. WHAT I THOUGHT I EXPRESSED IN THE PART I MENTIONED (IN THE STATEMENT). AND THERE IS A SENTENCE WHICH WENT THAT THE SOCIALIST STATES - IT MEANS ALSO CZECHOSLOVAKIA - WILL EXAMINE THIS PROPOSAL. THIS IS ALSO AN ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION.

3. Q. (DPA) WHAT YOU HAVE SAID, MR. AMBASSADOR, ABOUT THE PROPOSALS FROM THE WESTERN SIDE - DOES THIS CORRESPOND TO WHAT MR. KHLESTOV SAID IN TODAY'S SESSION?

A. IN MY STATEMENT I EXPRESSED THE STANDPOINT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION, AND THEN I ASSUME THAT WHAT WAS SAID THERE, NAMELY WHAT THE APPROACH OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION TO THE NEGOTIATIONS IS, THAT THIS WAS ALSO MOST PROBABLY CONTAINED IN THE STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR KHLESTOV.

4. Q. (DIE PRESSE) MR. AMBASSADOR, COULD YOU EXPLAIN TO ME WHY RUDE PRÁVO REJECTED THE OFFER OF NATO IN A VERY HARD UNCLASSIFIED

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MANNER, WHILE YOU IN YOUR STATEMENT USED PHRASES WHICH ARE QUITE MILD. ARE THERE ANY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE RUDE PRÁVO LINE AND WHAT YOUR DELEGATION SAID TODAY?

A. I EXPLAINED HERE THE STANDPOINT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION IN THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS, AND NOT THE JOURNALISTIC VIEWS OF ANY NEWSPAPER IN OUR COUNTRY. THE FACT IS THAT CZECHOSLOVAK NEWSPAPERS, AS WELL AS THE NEWSPAPERS OF OTHER

COUNTRIES, CAN INFORM THEIR READERS. I DO NOT KNOW THAT RUDE PRAVO REJECTED ANY PROPOSAL. NOBODY CAN GIVE THE PAPER THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANYTHING. IF ACERTAIN STANDPOINT IS EXPRESSED IN AN ARTICLE SIGNED BY A JOURNALIST, THAT IS ONE TING. SECONDLY, AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE ARTICLE IN QUESTION, WHICH WAS WRITTEN BY THE BONN CORRESPONDENT OF RUDE PRAVO, DEALT WITH A SESSION OF THE NATO COUNCIL IN BRUSSELS, AND IT INFORMED ITS READERS OF THE CONCLUSIONS PUBLISHED, WHICH WERE ALSO ANALYZED IN OTHER NEWSPAPERS IN THE WEST. IN OTHER WORDS, IT WAS HIS JOURNALISTIC DUTY TO INFORM READERS ABOUT EVENTS IN BRUSSELS, AND WHAT WESTERN NEWSPAPERS HAD TO SAY ABOUT THESE RESULTS. THAT IS ALL.

5. Q. (BBC) MR. AMBASSADOR, YOU SAID IN THE EARLIER PART OF YOUR STATEMENT THAT THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE HAD COME TO A STANDSTILL, EVEN IF ONLY TEMPORARILY. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE NEW PROPOSALS FROM THE WEST WILL AT LEAST HELP THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE TO GO FORWARD?

A. I SAID THAT THE WORK CAME TO A STANDSTILL WITH REGARD TO THE WORKING OUT OF A DEFINITION FOR THE ALLOTMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES, AND THAT WE BELIEVE THAT IT CAME IN THIS RESPECT ONLY TO A TEMPORARY STANDSTILL. AS YOU KNOW, THE WESTERN PROPOSAL HAS AS YET NOT BEEN DISCUSSED. IT WAS PRESENTED ONLY TWO DAYS AGO, AND IT WILL BE A SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSIONS NEXT YEAR. THAT IS ALL.

END TEXT.RESOR

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